GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4755
ANSWERED ON:25.04.2008
FOREST RIGHT ACT
Kurup Adv. Suresh;Mediyam Dr. Babu Rao;Nahata Smt. P. Jaya Prada;Ramadass Prof. M;Reddy Shri Suravaram Sudhakar;Scindia Smt. Yashodhara Raje;Senthil Dr. Raman

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has started to process of implementing the Scheduled Tribes and Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006;

(b) if so, the details of the implementation strategies along with the name of implementing agencies;

(c) whether the protections ensures in the Act also cover critical wildlife habitats (CWHs) within existing national parks of wildlife sanctuaries;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes any amendment to the existing clause related to CWHs in the Act;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken/being taken by the Union Government to encourage speedy implementation of the above act?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS(DR. RAMESHWAR ORAON)

(a & b) : The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 has been notified for operation with effect from 31st December, 2007. The responsibility for implementing the Act lies with the State/ UT Governments. State/UT Governments have been last addressed on 11-1-2008 for constituting various Committees under the Act and for initiating necessary action for recognition and vesting of the forest rights in the forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers.

(c & d) : The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 seeks to recognize and vest the forest rights and occupation in forest land in forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers who have been residing in such forests for generations, but whose rights could not be recorded. As per Section 2(d) of the Act, the term "forest land" includes land within the sanctuaries and national parks also.

(e & f): : No such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

(g) : In order to ensure speedy implementation of the Act, this Ministry has conveyed the major actionable points along with timelines to the State/UT Governments for initiating follow up action.